

Application No. 09/635,275

Filed: August 9, 2000

TC Art Unit: 2151

Confirmation No.: 4949

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A self service data interface, comprising:
first communications logic operative to provide
communications with a personal data device;

second communications logic operative to provide
communications with a data infrastructure in a neighborhood of the
self service data interface, the infrastructure providing
available data services, the second communications logic being
coupled to the first communications logic to enable communications
between the personal data device and the data infrastructure, said
second communications logic being responsive to said personal data
device to invoke one of the data services; and

a processor coupled to the first and second communications
logic, the processor being operative to execute a data interface
management process including (i) interacting with the data
infrastructure via the second communications logic to obtain
information about the available data services, the information
including information describing the manner in which the available
data services are accessed, and (ii) interacting with the personal
data device via the first communications logic to provide the
information about the available data services to a user of the
personal data device.

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2. (Original) A self service data interface according to claim 1, wherein the first communications logic includes at least first and second communications interfaces, the first communications interface interfacing to a wire link, and the second communications interface interfacing to a wireless link.

3. (Original) A self service data interface according to claim 2, wherein the wire link employs a carrier-sense multiple-access communications protocol.

4. (Original) A self service data interface according to claim 2, wherein the wireless link employs a master-slave communications protocol.

5. (Original) A self service data interface according to claim 1, wherein the information about the available data services provided to the personal data device is formatted as a hypertext page.

6. (Original) A self service data interface according to claim 5, wherein the hypertext page is a hypertext markup language (HTML) page.

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WEINGARTEN, SCHURGIN,
GAGNEBIN & LEBOVICI LLP
TEL (617) 542-2390
FAX (617) 451-0313

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7. (Original) A self service data interface according to claim 5, wherein the hypertext page is an extensible markup language (XML) page.

8. (Original) A self service data interface according to claim 1, wherein the information about the available data services provided to the personal data device includes hot links to locations within the data infrastructure at which the services can be accessed.

9. (Original) A self service data interface according to claim 8, wherein the hot links include text formatted according to a structured naming scheme.

10. (Original) A self service data interface according to claim 1, wherein the data interface management process further includes monitoring the status of the communications with the personal data device.

11. (Original) A self service data interface according to claim 1, wherein the data interface management process further includes monitoring the status of identified problems in the data

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infrastructure, and providing information reflecting the monitored status to the personal data device for use by the user.

12. (Original) A method by which a user of a personal data device obtains information about and access to data services available in a data infrastructure to which the personal data device is coupled, comprising:

storing information about the available data services in a data infrastructure, the information including information describing the manner in which the available data services are accessed;

providing the information stored in the data infrastructure to a user presentation entity responsible for informing the user about the available data services including the manner in which they are accessed, the user presentation entity storing the information in a format enabling ready retrieval and perusal by the user;

providing the information stored in the user presentation entity to a cooperating entity in the personal data device for presentation to the user;

generating, at the personal data device, a message containing information provided from the user presentation entity identifying

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a service to be accessed in the data infrastructure, and sending the message to the data infrastructure; and

upon receipt of the message from the personal data device at the data infrastructure, invoking the identified service and enabling the identified service to communicate with a cooperating entity in the personal data device for user interaction with the identified service.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the entity cooperating with the user presentation entity is a browser.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the information about available data services provided to the personal data device is formatted as a hypertext page.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein the hypertext page is a hypertext markup language (HTML) page.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 14, wherein the hypertext page is an extensible markup language (XML) page.

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17. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the information about available data services provided to the personal data device includes hot links to locations within the data infrastructure at which the services can be accessed.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17, wherein the hot links include text formatted according to a structured naming scheme.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 12, further comprising monitoring, by the user presentation entity, of status of the communications with the personal data device.

20. (Original) A method according to claim 12, further includes monitoring, by the user presentation entity, of status of identified problems in the data infrastructure, and providing information reflecting the monitored status to the personal data device for use by the user.